

## CHOANEPHORA FRUIT ROT OF BHINDI

**D**uring January 1990, a serious fruit rot was observed in bhindi plants at Vattiyookavu in Trivandrum. Over 90 per cent of the tender fruits were found affected by the disease.

The symptoms first appeared as water soaked areas on young and newly formed fruits, leading to wet rot of the tissues. The infection mostly originated from flowers and flower stalks. In advanced stages of disease development, the invaded portions became covered with a luxuriant whitish growth of the fungus. Minute black-headed pin like structures consisting of the conidial and sporangial fructifications of the pathogen also appeared on the infected regions. The flower parts adhering on the fruit stalk help in the development of infection.

Isolations made on potato dextrose agar medium yielded the fungus *Choanephora* sp. Pathogenicity of the

isolate was proved by artificial inoculation. The fungus produced abundant sporangia in culture. The sporangia are terminal and pendant on the curved end of an erect sporangiophore. It is provided with definite prominent columella. Sporangia measured 38.5 - 152.0  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter. Sporangiospores are light brown, ovoid, longitudinally striate and provided with tufts of hair like appendages at both ends. These measured 14.5 - 23.5 x 8.0 - 14.0  $\mu\text{m}$  in size.

The pathogen was identified as *Choanephora cucurbitarum* (Berk. and Rav.) Thaxter.

Tiwari and Yadav (1969) reported the fungus in bhindi flowers and young fruits from Bihar. There is no record of this fungus causing diseases of bhindi fruits in South India.

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### REFERENCE

- Tiwari, V.N. and Yadav, A.S. 1969. Pathogenicity of the strains of *Choanephora cucurbitarum* attacking *Hibiscus esculentus* and *Luffa cylindrica* and the effect of vegetative and floral extracts on their growth and sporulation. *Indian Phytopath.* 22 : 258-260